

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 6, 2014

Commission for Children and Families and DCFS 30th Anniversary; and Foster Care Awareness Month

On June 14, 1983, the Board of Supervisors directed that child welfare service delivery be separated from the Department of Public Social Services and in 1984, the Department of Children and Family Services was formed. Their charge was to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect, provide in-home services, reunification services, foster care, and adoption. Since that time, the Department has served to protect, uphold, and respond to the needs of abused and neglected children throughout Los Angeles County.

On May 8, 1984 the Board of Supervisors established the Commission for Children and Families and granted the Commission the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the recommendations from the Children's Services Task Force which led to the creation of DCFS. Since that time, the Commission has continued to make recommendations to improve programs aimed at serving children at-risk.

Many children who are at risk have experienced the trauma of abuse or neglect and require a special kind of person to help heal and nurture them.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

May 2014 is a special month for foster parents: selfless individuals who are committed to providing a child with a sense of security and stability during a time of crisis. The Department would not be able tend to the needs of abused and neglected children without the commitment of countless foster care and relative caregivers throughout the last 30 years.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, as the largest public child welfare agency in the country, values its mission to recruit, prepare, and support foster care families to provide healthy, stable, loving homes to children until they can safely be returned to their birth parents or family members.

The Adoption and Permanency Resources Division welcomes individuals and families – regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, martial or domestic partnership status, physical characteristics, national origin, medical status or disability status – to help fulfill its mission and open up the doors to children in need of a caring and loving home. In particular, families able and willing to provide a temporary home for infants, sibling groups, teenagers, and children with medical needs.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Commemorate the 30th anniversaries of the Commission for Children and Families and the Department of Children and Family Services; Declare the month of May 2014 as Foster Care Awareness Month; Encourage families and others in the community to consider the benefits and rewards of being a foster parent by calling (888) 811-1121 or visiting www.ShareYourHeart.org to become a foster or adoptive parent; and Instruct the Auditor-Controller to print “*May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Call 888 811-1121 or visit www.ShareYourHeart.org*” on all County warrants and for the Department of Human Resources include the same message on the electronic paystub viewer on e-CAPS.

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